



P.O. Box 389
100-A South West Boulevard
Newton, North Carolina 28658-0389
Telephone: 828-465-8201
Fax: 828-465-8392
www.catawbacountync.gov

June 6, 2014

NEW CATAWBA COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER TO OPEN ON MONDAY, JUNE 16

Opening ceremony scheduled for June 26

Catawba County Animal Services will begin operations in a new, much expanded animal shelter on Monday, June 16, 2014. The new shelter was needed to address continual overcrowding at the former shelter building behind the Sheriff's Office that was built almost thirty years ago.

The new shelter will be located at 201 Government Services Drive, Newton, NC 28658, off Radio Station Road just west of the Government Center/Justice Center campus.

An opening ceremony for the shelter will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 26th.



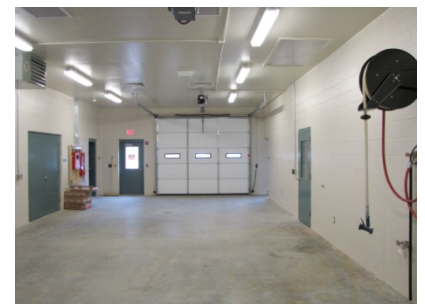
"We're very pleased to be moving into the new shelter," said Mark Pettit, Assistant Emergency Services Director. "Our new facility will provide us with the space and features needed to safely house more animals. We will now have separate areas for animal intakes and for animal adoptions. We will also have acquaintance rooms where potential adopters can spend time getting to know an animal prior to adopting it. The opening of the new shelter also begins a new partnership with the Humane Society of Catawba County, which will oversee all animal adoptions, the care of all animals other than those in quarantine, and the education of the public and visitors to the Shelter."

The previous animal shelter was built in 1985 and had a capacity of 78 animals," Pettit added. "Renovations in 2005 and 2011 increased the capacity to 102 animals, but the shelter has consistently exceeded that number of animals per day since 2010. This overcrowding made it more challenging to control the spread of disease and did not provide a secure place for animal control officers to unload animals from their vehicles, which presented a potential safety hazard for staff, citizens and animals. The single lobby entrance and exit left no room for the public to get acquainted with animals they wish to adopt. Cleaning of the areas where animals were housed was also difficult because animals had to be moved to portable cages each time cleaning was conducted."

All adoptable animals will be moving from the current shelter to the new shelter prior to the move to the new shelter. In celebration of the new facility, the County is offering half-price adoptions for cats and dogs until Monday, June 16, 2014.

Features of the new Shelter, which will have space for 233 animals, will include:

Drive through "sally port" for animal intakes- that will make it safer to bring animals into the Shelter in vehicles, which is typically how they would be brought in by animal control officers, thereby reducing the potential for animals to escape and reducing potential safety hazards for staff and animals.



Inside view of the sally port.

Separate intake and adoption lobbies- that will allow staff to intake animals that have not been evaluated for adoptability and safely keep them segregated from animals that have already been deemed adoptable. The adoption lobby will also provide a more comfortable place for citizens who are considering adopting an animal to meet and become acquainted with those animals.

Indoor and outdoor runs- will reduce the need for staff to physically move each animal multiple times each day. Animals will now be easily moved to outdoor runs so indoors areas may be properly cleaned. Outdoor runs will also provide a healthier atmosphere for the animals.



Lobby area, still under construction.

Designated quarantine area- that will further allow staff to separate sick or injured animals, dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs as well as animals that have been brought to the shelter due to a biting incident.

LEED Silver Certification- To save on long term operating costs, reduce energy usage and make the building more environmentally “friendly”, the County is pursuing LEED Silver certification for the building. As a result, the County anticipates energy usage to be the same in the much larger new shelter as it was in the old shelter built in 1985.

The 7,005 square foot shelter was designed by Daggett & Grigg Architects. Edison Foard Inc. of Charlotte, selected for its past experience in building animal shelters, was the general contractor for the project. Edison Foard was awarded a bid in the amount of \$3,323,410 for the construction, funds which the County set aside over several years before construction began in early 2013.

For more information on the new County Animal Shelter, you may call the shelter at 828-464-7686 or visit <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/animal/> for information on shelter operations.